

# INDIANA GUARDSMAN

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Front cover: Staff Sgt. Aaron Barton, a crew chief with the 122nd Fighter Wing, cleans the canopy during a preflight inspection on an A-10C Thunderbolt II during Operation Guardian Blitz, Jan. 25, at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

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# Maintaining the force: recruiting, retaining troops



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Lowry

Evan Conner, of Sullivan, enlists in the Indiana National Guard, Friday, Jan. 26, 2018 during a ceremony in Indianapolis. Conner is slated to become a water purification specialist with the 38th Sustainment Brigade's 138th Quartermaster Company, headquartered in Brazil, Indiana. Brig. Gen. Ronald A. Westfall, director of the joint staff, administered the oath of enlistment.



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Lowry

Staff Sgt. Robert Stone, a supply noncommissioned officer with the 38th Infantry Division, takes the oath to become a warrant officer as Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jason Compton administers the oath in Indianapolis, Jan. 26, 2018. Stone will move to Indiana National Guard headquarters to become a property book officer. "Becoming a warrant officer lets you take the expertise you have already gained in your field as an NCO, and enhance the organization as a subject matter expert," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Bo Haugestad, the warrant officer strength manager.



# Hoosiers take over sustainment mission in Kuwait

By Master Sgt. Brad Staggs  
*38th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs*

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** - The 38th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered in Kokomo, conducted a relief in place, transfer of authority ceremony, Feb. 26, as the 371st Sustainment Brigade handed command and control to the Indiana National Guard unit.

As one of only three units to have performed the mission twice in this location, the Indiana National Guard soldiers provide sustainment mission command of U.S. Central Command distribution and expeditionary sustainment. From beans to bullets, the 38th Guard soldiers are tasked with ensuring that needs are met by the warfighters.

Maj. Gen. Flem B. "Donnie" Walker Jr., 1st Theater Sustainment Command commanding general, hosted the event and spoke of the importance of the mission.

"I have not found myself in an environment more complex or difficult to support than the one we find ourselves in today," Walker told the assembled soldiers. "It's no easy task. It takes leadership, it takes dedication, flexibility and intense focus that's required for mission success. I know that the 38th will work tirelessly to ensure that our warfighters are well taken care of day in and day out."

The 38th Sustainment Brigade controls personnel and units not only in Kuwait, but also across the U.S. Central Command area of operations including Iraq, Afghanistan and several other countries to ensure that personnel never have to worry about the basics of life and soldiering. Army watercraft, supplies and post offices are also under brigade control.

Col. Kimberly Martindale, commander of the brigade's Hoosier troops, made it clear that the 38th is going to move forward with the good work already started by the 371st.

"It is a pleasure to command," Martindale told a packed crowd during the ceremony. "We're prepared and we're ready to continue the mission of the battlefield set for us."

The 38th conducted the same mission from August 2012 to June 2013. The brigade will remain in command throughout the majority of 2018.



*Photo By Master Sgt. Brad Staggs*

Cpl. Devin McElveen, center, holds the 38th Sustainment Brigade colors as Col. Kimberly Martindale, commander of the 38th, and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Andrews, brigade senior enlisted adviser, unfurl the colors during a transfer of authority ceremony held at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Monday, Feb. 26, 2018. The brigade assumed command and control from the 371st Sustainment Brigade from the Ohio National Guard.



Brig. Gen. Gordon L. Ellis receives the 38th Infantry Division flag during the unit's change of command ceremony in Indianapolis, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018. Ellis took the reins of the division from Maj. Gen. David C. Wood, who had led the division since October 2014. "As I assume command, I am cognizant of the need to continue to build sustained readiness across the formation of this division," said Ellis.

# 38th ID changes commanders

## Wood relinquishes Cyclone reins after 3 years to Ellis

By Cpl. Hannah Clifton

*38th Infantry Division Public Affairs*

Soldiers with the 38th Infantry Division, also known as the Cyclone Division, held a change of command ceremony at the Indiana War Memorial in February.

Brig. Gen. Gordon L. Ellis, of Brown County, Ohio, took the reins from Maj. Gen. David C. Wood, who had led the division since October 2014.

"As I assume command, I am cognizant of the need to continue to build sustained readiness across the formation of this division," said Ellis during his speech. "We, Cyclone soldiers, share a legacy that was built before us."

Ellis said he intends to lead the 38th Infantry Division by focusing on the development of the agility, adaptiveness, proficiency and lethality of its soldiers

while continuing to contribute to the division's history of achievements.

The division formed more than 100 years ago during America's mobilization for World War I. Its soldiers served in World War II earning the nickname Avengers of Bataan. Also, as a community-based organization, 38th citizen-soldiers also stand ready to help its country during disasters - like they did following Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Ellis has served in the Army National Guard for more than 30 years and has three overseas deployments in support of Kosovo in 2004-2005, Kuwait and Iraq in 2008 and Afghanistan in 2012.

"The CY patch is known throughout the Army as a division that gets the mission done and gets it done right," said Wood in his speech during the ceremony. "Each of you have built this reputation through

overseas deployments, your response to disasters and your performances in exercises at home and abroad."

During the ceremony, the 38th also changed senior enlisted advisers. Command Sgt. Maj. Dale A. Shetler assumed duties as the division command sergeant major from Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Martin.

Shetler has served in the Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard for 32 years. He deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in 2006 and 2007.

The 38th Infantry Division is one of 18 Army divisions and one of eight National Guard divisions in the United States' arsenal.

The division, headquartered in Indianapolis, stands ready with more than 8,000 Hoosier Guardsmen across the state and thousands more in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan and Delaware.



# Blacksnakes blitz join

By Staff Sgt. William Hopper  
*122nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The Indiana Air National Guard's 122nd Fighter Wing recently completed Operation Guardian Blitz during a two-week joint training exercise at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, which included air-to-air refueling, training alongside Navy rotary assets and joint terminal attack controllers.

The team of more than 200 airmen with 10 A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft took advantage of favorable weather conditions and ability to work with other units at MacDill, and were afforded opportunities to practice close air support, forward air control and combat search and rescue.

## Unique Training Opportunity

"My favorite part of training here at MacDill has been the combined force training operations that we don't have an opportunity to do at home," said Air Force Lt. Col. Joshua Waggoner, the 122nd Fighter Wing Operation Guardian Blitz detachment commander. "We are here training with our A-10 aircraft, two Navy MH-60S helicopters and refueling tankers overhead. During missions we are on station for over two hours integrating with all these assets while also coordinating with [joint terminal attack controllers] on the ground. The opportunity to work with these other agencies to accomplish missions has been invaluable."

Operation Guardian Blitz was unique in allowing different branches and squadrons to integrate in a way not typically found during a joint training exercise.

"The ability to have helicopters out of Virginia, tankers out of Niagara, and A-10s out of Fort Wayne, all operating in the same sortie and off the same ramp is something you usually don't get elsewhere," Waggoner said. "Even at Snowbird or other trips in the past, we've never been located with all our other assets. Here at MacDill for Guardian Blitz, we're all located in the same place and able to interact face-to-face on a daily basis. It's a luxury you just don't get anywhere else."



Airmen with the 122nd Fighter Wing load 30 mm ammunition into the GAU-8 Avenger rotary cannon on an A-10C Thunderbolt II during Operation Guardian Blitz, Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018.

"We were able to match our objectives with the other unit's objectives to make it all happen at the same time," he said. "This is by far the most aggressive training schedule we have set, and it never would have been able to happen at home this time of year due to weather and other circumstances."

## Air Force Refueling

One of the many training opportunities made possible by Guardian Blitz was the refueling mission completed by the Air Force Reserve's 914th Air Refueling Wing from Niagara Falls, New York. The unit, formerly an airlift wing, is transitioning from flying C-130 cargo planes to KC-135 refueling tankers.

"They were excited to be a part of Guardian Blitz because it gave them the opportunity to get in plenty of refueling sorties with our A-10s while getting training from MacDill instructors," Waggoner said. "They have completed 41 air-to-air refueling sorties in the last two weeks, which is about what they usually fly in six months."

"We just made the transition to the KC-135 from the C-130 about six months ago," said Air Force Lt. Col. Chris Pfeil, a pilot with the 914th Air Refueling Wing. "It's a little different than what we are used to."

"Once we get a little more proficient with the KC-135 our unit will become operational," he said. "More and more, air-to-air refueling is becoming in-demand to



An A-10 Thunderbolt II with the 122nd Fighter Wing closes in to receive fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker over Avon Park, Fla., in January.

carry on the mission of the Air Force."

## Navy Search, Rescue

Also joining the training were two MH-60S Seahawk helicopters operated by the Navy's Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 22, from Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. During missions, the squadron sailors provided recovery assets for the search and rescue training and for additional close air support to strike targets on the ground.

"The MH-60S Seahawk is primarily used for search and rescue operations and

# nt exercise in Florida



*Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper*

**Sgt. Will Lowe, a 122nd Fighter Wing crew chief marshals an A-10C after a mission during Operation Guardian Blitz, in January at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Guardian Blitz is a two-week joint exercise to improve service interoperability for combat search and rescue and close-air support.**

es,” said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class  
as Glass, a door gunner with HSC-22.  
Looking forward to working with other  
es of the military during Guardian  
o get a better idea of how we can  
together to improve mission success.”  
train to the point that we can  
e our mission in any environment,”  
ner said. “The time we put in  
g at places like MacDill and back  
in Fort Wayne really pays off when it  
time to execute the mission.”



*Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper*

**Senior Airman Adam Jurek, from the 122nd Fighter Wing hydraulic shop, installs a panel after completing a bleed of the engine hydraulic system on an A-10C during Operation Guardian Blitz, Jan. 25, 2018, at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.**



# Strengthening ties to

## Indiana National Guard troops, Boy Scouts

By Staff Sgt. Ashley Westfall  
*Indiana National Guard Public Affairs*

The Indiana National Guard's decades-long relationship with the Boy Scouts of America is no comparison to the centuries of history that the two organizations have together.

Scouting began in the 20th Century when a British army officer, Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell discovered his men did not know basic first aid or outdoor survival. So he wrote a small handbook called *Aids to Scouting*, which outlines resourcefulness, adaptability, and the qualities of leadership.

Honoring an oath, being physically and mentally strong with values such as loyalty and respect are all familiar to the Boy Scouts and the Indiana National Guard.

"The support that these two organizations provide each other is more than just selfless service," said Maj. Muzinat Hoover, marketing officer in charge for Indiana National Guard recruiting and retention battalion. "We are instilling trust and relationships with our youth that will last a lifetime."

As part of the governor's strategic plan, the Indiana National Guard community relations program works to maintain positive relations with local and statewide communities.

It's through building these relationships that 16-year-old Stephen Brake was able to complete his Eagle Scout project with Troop 104 of the Central Indiana Boy Scouts Division.

It started when his dad, Indiana National Guard Lt. Col. Robert Brake, deployed in Afghanistan in 2016. While overseas he developed a relationship with eight local scout troops in Kabul. Near the end of his deployment, he reached out to his son with a project that would support the military and Kabul scouts.

"I jumped on the opportunity," Stephen Brake said. "The only downside was the



Service members and Boy Scouts from across Indiana move boxes of popcorn at Indiana National Guard headquarters.

very small time constraint because I wanted to get the project done before my dad began his journey back home."

Stephen explained in his Eagle Scout report that the project was to build memorials for fallen soldiers. Over a period of just two short weekends, he and his team of scouts built and assembled the memorials from scratch. The next challenge was getting the materials to the Afghan scouts, as it would be their project to then reassemble the memorials for the soldiers.

On Aug. 23, 2017, Stephen and Troop 104 arrived at the Indiana National Guard Headquarters warehouse, where service members joined in to help package the memorials. With the help of Indiana Guardsmen, all of the memorials made it

to Afghanistan the day before Lt. Col. Brake returned home.

"If I'm going to be honest, I don't think I would have been able to make this happen without the help of the Indiana National Guard," said Stephen.

The Indiana National Guard and the Boy Scouts of America have a mutual relationship of support. In addition to special projects, annual events take place at Indiana National Guard headquarters.

In February, Boy Scouts of America donated approximately 5,600 boxes of popcorn, 4,000 boxes will be distributed across the state and 1,600 went to troops serving at and passing through Camp Atterbury.

"As a former Army wife, it is an absolute



# Through common bonds

## s enjoy mutual partnership, shared history



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ashley Westfall

headquarters onto trucks to distribute throughout the state, Feb. 22, 2018.

honor to partner with the National Guard through our Boy Scouts Popcorn Donation Campaign,” said Marilyn Lopez, the field director for the Crossroads of America council. “We appreciate everything our armed forces do for our country and this is a small way to say a big thank you.”

The Indiana National Guard public affairs office and recruiting branch work together to support Boy Scout events and programs. The support includes Indiana Guardsmen visiting scout camporees, jamborees and troop events to educate and show their support.

Cameron Schlegel joined the Indiana National Guard Oct. 24, 2016, as an aviation operations specialist. Some of the skills he learned with the scouts helped him

tremendously during basic training, which earned him the nickname “Boy Scout” from his drill sergeants.

Schlegel said he felt like a hero in an obstacle course team challenge, when his skills earned his team first place. He said he was familiar with the course so he took charge and led his team to victory.

“Scouts who become soldiers understand freedom is earned and they aren’t afraid to work hard and protect it,” said Schlegel. “I now fully understand and appreciate the soldiers who visited our scout events.”

This year will mark the 100th anniversary for the Central Indiana Boy Scouts of America Council. Mary Owens, the marketing and public relations director for the council, said



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Lowry

**Boy Scout Stephen Brake secures a box of supplies to build memorials for fallen soldiers to send to Afghanistan, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017.**

that they will be hosting a celebration for the anniversary during the summer of 2018.

“We are excited to have the Indiana National Guard participate in the celebration, which will be a testament to the relationship we have,” said Owens.

Maintaining relationships secure those foundations that scouting and military traditions adhere to. Camporees, Eagle Scout projects and armory tours for the year are already being planned. Popcorn will soon reach every corner of Indiana and will show up during mail call overseas. The Indiana National Guard continues to strengthen ties and will continue mission with the Boy Scouts of America.

# The Last Word

*What does it mean for you, as an African-American, serving in the Indiana National Guard?*

## Pvt. Babatunde Owofade

"I think it's a huge opportunity for me. We have an equal opportunity. So to serve in the National Guard is a very great thing for me and is a great achievement. When I was in basic training and AIT, everyone was treated equally."



## 2nd Lt. Ken Morris

"I think what it means to me, I've always seen myself as a leader, and I think that's an asset I can bring to both communities, the military community and the African-American community. I see my service as a unity between races."



## Master Sgt. Malika Dowdell

"When I think about Black History Month, it's time where we recognize those African-Americans who went above and beyond to contribute to our country: specifically for military and to reflect on heroes from Crispus Attucks to Colin Powell and their impact on society. For me it is an honor that I am able to wear the uniform and serve the state and nation. It gives me inspiration as an African-American female soldier today, because even if I never achieve the same level of greatness



Attucks or Powell, I understand that impact I can have on the younger soldiers as we work to grow and improve as a military force."

## Col. Felicia Brokaw

"One of my favorite quotes is 'For of those to whom much is given, much is required' — Luke 12:48. There are a lot of responsibilities that come with being a colonel in today's Army. As one of the few African-Americans, as well as a female leader in this great organization, I do not take any of these responsibilities lightly. I am so grateful to all of those who have come before me paving the way. I just hope that my journey will allow



those that follow, to become just as successful with their life endeavors."

## Staff Sgt. Kent Smith

"It's always been part of my family to serve in different capacities. We serve within our church; we serve in the community. I have a whole plethora of family members that have served in the military - uncles, my father, my son. It's a given that we're going to serve in some type of capacity. I'm a firm believer that we should give back, which ties into me as an African-American. This is an opportunity not just to give back to our country, but to give back to our community. So why



not be that African-American male that lets people know that the Indiana National Guard, the military as a whole, is a good place for all people."

## Sgt. Doris Taylor

"My time in the Indiana National Guard has definitely been filled with lots of different experiences. I've been on every side of the fence: from the soldier who didn't want to be there, to the NCO who wants to make a difference, to the female who has to work twice as hard to prove who she is. I've gone through every emotion, but at the end of the day, I know that I am making a difference. Being an African-American in the Indiana National Guard, which is predominantly white and being at units and seeing only a handful of people who you can relate to outside of



the military for new soldiers, it's disheartening. But growing up in the National Guard you have to be able to adjust to talk to other groups of people, join other groups of people. Force yourself to talk to them and be more social."



A full-page background image showing several soldiers in camouflage uniforms and helmets. The soldier in the foreground is looking directly at the camera, while others are in the background, some looking down. The scene is dimly lit with a blueish tint.

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Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb speaks to an assembled audience of 1,400 people who came to the Kokomo Event Center to attend the departure ceremony for more than 250 soldiers of the Indiana National Guard's 38th Sustainment Brigade, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018. Photo by Master Sgt. Brad Staggs